United Nations A/57/409–S/2002/1035

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
16 September 2002

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-seventh session
Item 162 of the provisional agenda*
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 13 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Georgia of 12 September 2002 on the threat of use of force by the Russian Federation against Georgia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 162 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Revaz **Adamia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/57/150.

02-59272 (E) 180902

Annex to the letter dated 13 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Georgia is extremely alarmed by the statement of the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin, made during the Sochi meeting on 11 September 2002. The statement contains an overt threat to use military force against a neighbouring sovereign State.

One can only regret that these words were voiced on 11 September, the day when the attention of the world community was focused on the last year's barbaric terrorist attack and global efforts to fight this menace.

It is extremely surprising that such accusations were made, despite the fact that the Russian side had been informed in detail through the channels established between the special services of both States regarding all the arrangements planned and conducted by the Georgian military and law-enforcement agencies to improve the criminal situation in the Pankisi Gorge and on the Chechen segment of the Georgian-Russian State border.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Georgia considers that the accusations put forward in the statement are groundless and do not reflect the objective reality. In order to demonstrate real developments on this matter, Georgia expresses its readiness to receive, in the shortest period of time, the group of international experts in the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), including representatives of the Russian Federation, for the purpose of visiting and familiarizing themselves with the actual situation in the Pankisi Gorge and on the Chechen segment of the Georgian-Russian State border.

The Georgian side is being called upon to control its territory at the very moment when the measures against criminal elements and fighters are entering a decisive phase.

The Georgian side has been repeatedly stressing that it is open to close cooperation in the struggle against terrorism as envisaged by the global anti-terrorism coalition, including the Russian Federation, whose territorial integrity and right to protect its own citizens from the malice of terrorism has always been respected by Georgia.

However, the assignments given out to the Russian law-enforcement agencies by President Putin on 11 September do not in any way fall under the universally accepted international norms of inter-State relations and cannot be assessed otherwise but as a threat of aggression from the Russian Federation against a neighbouring sovereign State.

In this regard, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Georgia considers totally unacceptable the liberal, if mildly put, interpretation of Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, which was invoked at the Sochi meeting and is aimed at the justification of such aggressive intentions.

The Georgian side is insisting that Russia refrain from taking thoughtless steps, which can only entail new destruction and casualties, destabilize the situation in the entire Caucasus and irrevocably affect Georgian-Russian relations.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Georgia is appealing to the United Nations, OSCE and all the world community to take decisive measures against such a development of events in the Caucasus region.

Tbilisi, 12 September 2002